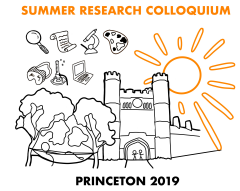


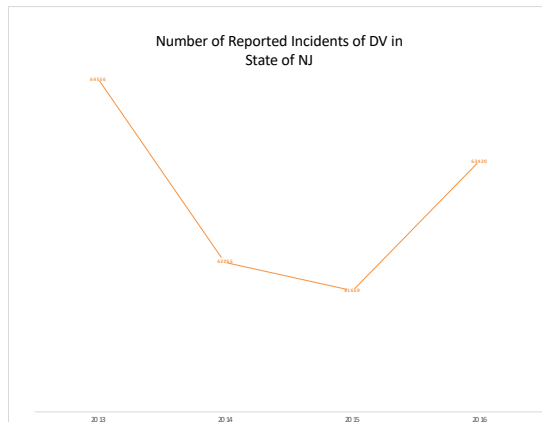
Domestic Violence Among Immigrants in Mercer County

Sophia Taylor, Department of Politics



Background

Domestic violence (DV) is a national public health issue recognized by the CDC and a number of other public health and advocacy organizations. Domestic violence has no single definition, however, in the state of New Jersey, DV is defined as **the occurrence of one or more** of the following: homicide, assault, terroristic threats, kidnapping, criminal restraint, false imprisonment, sexual assault, criminal sexual contact, lewdness, criminal mischief, burglary, criminal trespass, harassment, stalking, criminal coercion, robbery, and contempt of a domestic violence order.



Research Questions

How can we better protect immigrants against DV and ensure that the rights of all survivors are recognized and respected?

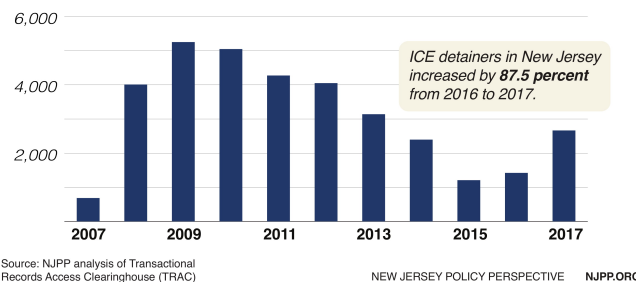
Challenges to Reporting DV

It is important to note that the number of reported incidents of DV does not reflect the actual number of DV incidents. In the cases of immigrant survivors, this number of reports is often lowest. Many immigrant survivors do not report their abusers for reasons such as:

- seclusion from victim agencies
- language fluency
- cultural views
- economic dependency

For undocumented survivors, legal status represents another concern when coming forward to report DV.

ICE Detainers on the Rise in New Jersey



Acknowledgements

Thank you to the ProCES office, LALDEF, and my wonderful peers in the summer research colloquium and graduate mentors. And thank you to Princeton's incredible librarians!

Current Policies

- Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991: *shifted state priorities and resources towards prevention, not just prosecution.*
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): *federal legislation that formally recognized DV and sexual assault as crimes and expanded protections for female survivors of abuse.*
- The Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act of 2000: *federal legislation that created an additional avenue for women to independently seek help through "self-petitioning."*
- Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: *federal legislation that established the provisions and requirements for the U nonimmigrant visa (U visa).*
- AG Directive 2018-6 ("Immigrant Trust Directive"): *established by NJ Attorney General in order to reassert the distinction between local law enforcement and federal immigration officers.*

Recommendations

1. Foster communication between law enforcement and immigrant communities.
2. Address common misconceptions by prioritizing education.
3. Continue to fund and support advocacy agencies!

References

1. Elizabeth Zadnik, Chiara Sabina, and Carlos A. Cuevas, "Violence Against Latinas: The Effects of Undocumented Status on Rates of Victimization and Help-Seeking," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 31, no. 6 (March 2016): 1141-53, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260514564067>.
2. <https://www.njpp.org/economic-opportunity-2/working-with-ice-a-costly-choice-for-new-jersey/#:~:text=ice>
3. <https://www.njsp.org/ucr/domestic-violence-reports.shtml>